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北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

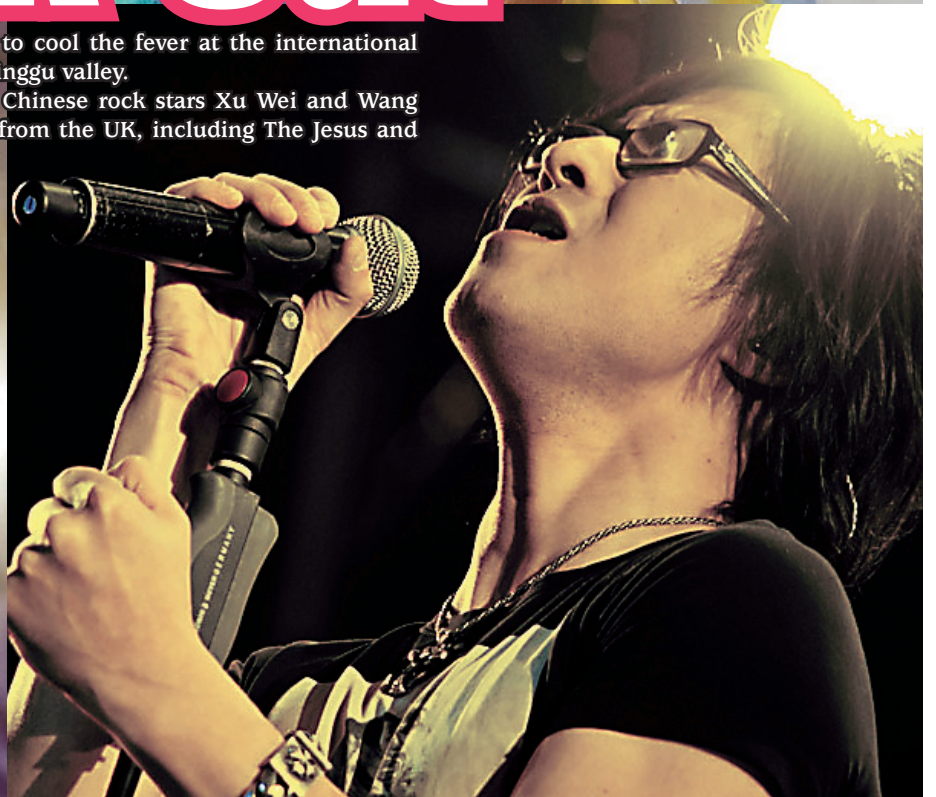
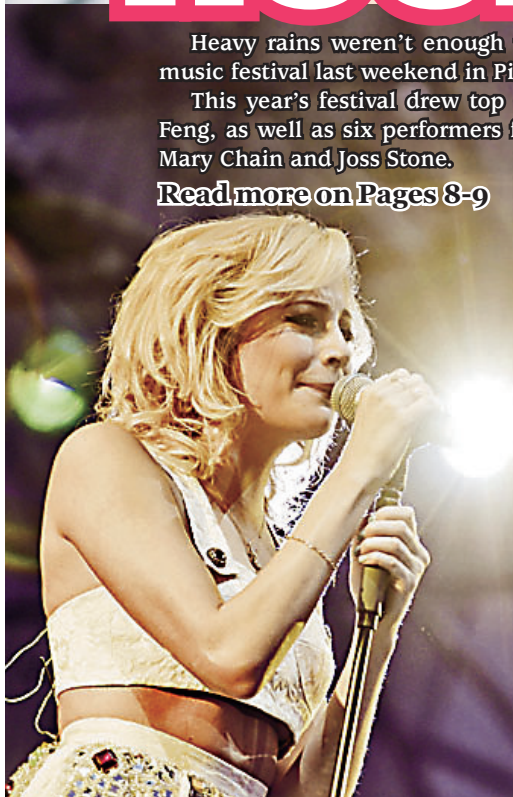


Rock Out

Heavy rains weren't enough to cool the fever at the international music festival last weekend in Pinggu valley.

This year's festival drew top Chinese rock stars Xu Wei and Wang Feng, as well as six performers from the UK, including The Jesus and Mary Chain and Joss Stone.

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Singles scramble to snag a billionaire

By Zhao Hongyi

One billionaire stole the show at a matchmaking event when he promised a share of his assets to his future wife and 50,000 yuan in jewelry on their first date.

The bounty, and the chance to meet 10 other eligible billionaire bachelors, attracted 2,800 women between the ages of 18 to 56 from across the country. Candidates include yoga trainers, office workers, university teachers, financial analysts, students and beauty queens.

But only 320 were selected to attend the final competition at the Garden Hotel on May 20.



Women hoping to snag a billionaire are competing at the China Entrepreneur Club for Singles (CECS) in Guangzhou.

CFP Photo

Splendid show

Single. Between the ages of 18 and 28. Between 1.6 and 1.75 meters tall. Beautiful.

The basic criteria alone shut out thousands of interested women before the competition even began.

Women who passed went on to be judged in a beauty competition, a conversation with an astrologist, a talent show and a quiz session. Only in the fifth round did they start to discuss feelings of love.

The beauty competition cut out all women who had any form of plastic surgery. The cultural test investigated the candidates' knowledge of history, astronomy and geography.

The astrologist, a middle-aged man with a mustache, played the role of the astrologist, and the "love affairs consultant" weeded out even more women for being too focused on money or born under a bad star.

The men the women were competing for made their billions in the garment, real estate, finance, chemical and restaurant industries. All are members of a singles club that requires its members to have at least 100 million yuan in net assets.

"The assets of our society are rapidly being concentrated in the hands of the rich. More than 80 percent of the nation's wealth is in the hands of fewer than 20 percent of the population," the organizer said.

"The stability of entrepreneurs' marriages has far-reaching consequences in such a society."

The organizers said their pool is down to 28 women who will attend a two-day and one-night luxury party at a

five-star hotel next month.

Virginity a must?

The top criterion requested by the billionaires was virginity – something they say is rare to find in China.

One of the billionaires offered a singles club 5 million yuan if it could help him marry a virgin who met his qualifications: a beautiful woman between the ages of 20 and 26, no shorter than 1.62 meters and no taller than 1.7 meters, weighing less than 50 kilograms and holding a college degree.

The billionaire, by contrast, is divorced, approaching 50 and of generous proportions.

Most of the candidates said they were unsurprised by the demand of virginity, but said it was a bit silly.

"Most medical institutes can perform operations to repair a woman's hymen," one candidate said.

When asked whether her parents would care about the age of the billionaire, one candidate said, "It would be a lie to say we don't care about his age, but I can ignore that if I find him charming and my parents agree."

"I don't care whether he has 100 million yuan or billions, but I wouldn't marry him if I find he's heartless," another girl said.

"I'm sure someone who is financially successful must have some good points, so they are probably worth marrying," another candidate surnamed Chen said.

In the cultural round, many candidates were disqualified when they failed to answer questions such as, Which country sent the US the Statue of Liberty as a gift? and, Pagodas are structures associated with which religion?

Many of them could not recite well-known poems by Mao Zedong or by ancient Chinese masters such as Li Bai and Du Fu.

The club said it is offering a 50,000 yuan bounty and an apartment valued at 3 million yuan to anyone who can find a qualified woman.

"I would still be hesitant to participate," one commentator said. "I'm unsure whether I would be sending the woman to heaven or hell."

A serious problem

Traditionally, China has emphasized virginity in the search for a spouse – but that is hard to find in a society prone to sleeping around.

Women have become more focused increasingly on their partner's hard assets and power, but have not spent much time finding ways to improve themselves.

A recent report predicts that more than 50 million men will be unable to find a spouse by 2050 – but not strictly because of the nation's gender imbalance. The report predicts a trend of men and women choosing to live alone.

"But the single men will still have it worse," the report said. While unmarried women will choose to stay unmarried and will have an easy time finding sexual partners, most of the men will have a harder time finding sexual partners.

Billionaire matchmaking events occur almost every year in China. In most cases, the events are a bigger success for the clubs than the singles.

"It's ridiculous!" one billionaire surnamed Ye said. "I don't think any rich person can find a spouse this way."

Festival urges pupils to open their books

By Bao Chengrong

Students from the 5th Elementary School of Fengtai recited traditional poems and performed a play at the *The Beijing Reading Festival* on May 17 to encourage more people to read.

As one of their seven performances, the students acted out *High Mountain and Flowing Water*, the story of musician Bo Ya and his friend Zhong Ziqi. Bo travels a great distance to meet Zhong, a man who appreciated his art, but arrives only to discover Zhong has died. The tragedy moved Bo to give up playing the guzheng.

They also presented a scene from *Harry Potter*.

When all the performances were done, students walked between several of the pavilions to exchange books.

"It's the first time students from our school came to swap books with their peers," said He Yongyi, the teacher in charge of the students.

Zhang Mingzhou, one of 10 members of the International Board on Books for Young People, said he appreciated the way they were encouraging reading.

He also said picture books were good choices for children too young to make their way through a novel. Picture books can help young readers to take a greater interest in reading, he said.

The Beijing Reading Festival is sponsored by the Beijing News Publication Bureau, Beijing Education Commission and Beijing League General Branch.

Book carnival opens with new exhibitions

By Bao Chengrong

The 10th annual Beijing International Book Carnival opened last Friday at Ditan Park with the theme "Brilliant Reading, Literary Fame of Beijing."

The 10-day event will feature exhibitions that combine traditional and contemporary culture. The embassies of Poland, France, the Czech Republic, Greece, Italy, Holland and New Zealand, as well as several cultural organizations, are participating.

"Some of the ambassadors will come to recommend publications to Chinese readers," said Wang Wei, a festival organizer.

Wang said there would be a Polish band performance, an exhibition of Italian engravings, an event related to the popular Mole series of cartoons from the Czech Republic and a pair of huge wooden shoes from Holland.

Jie Gai, a scholar from Cameroon, will be present at the festival as a cultural ambassador and guide.

"This is Beijing", one of the festival's nine theme activities, introduces the cultural heritage of Old Beijing through cross-talk performances, storytelling and opera. Popular cross-talker Cui Weike will perform at the festival.

Ten new media companies are also bringing their latest digital products to the exhibition. Visitors can learn about new mobile reading technologies, as well as 3D games and movies.

The festival is being sponsored by the Beijing News Publication Bureau, Beijing Culture Bureau and Beijing Radio and Film and Television Administration.

Lost rights

Wanglaoji's case spells war for herbal tea market

By Huang Daohen

When two fight, the third party always gains.

A recent legal ruling on the ownership of herbal tea trademark Wanglaoji has made the country's biggest tea brand face uncertainty. The brand, "grown up" under JDB Group with annual sales of over 20 billion yuan, now no longer rests with the company after the rights restoration.

But this came as good news for other smaller herbal tea firms, like Bawang, Heqizheng and Denglao, which have a chance to seize the market during this time of uncertainty.

"Worried about ailments? Drink Wanglaoji!"

The catchy commercial phrase is as familiar to most Chinese as Adidas' "Nothing is impossible."

But few know that their favorite herbal tea didn't actually own the rights to its name.

On May 9, the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission ruled that the right to use Wanglaoji belongs to Guangzhou Pharmaceuticals Corporation.

The restoration is, however, no simple case of IPR infringement. The historical tea brand Wanglaoji dates back to the 19th century.

In 1995, in order to better develop Wanglaoji, Guangzhou Pharmaceutical licensed the trademark to Guangzhou JDB, a subsidiary of a Hong Kong firm. The two companies later extended permission until 2010.

But in 2001, the right to use the trademark was illegally granted until 2020 by Guangzhou Pharmaceutical's former vice president Li Yimin. Li reportedly accepted a bribe of HK \$3 million (2.45 million yuan) from JDB's former president Chan Hungto for the extension.

Li was sentenced to a jail term of 15 years in 2005 while Chan remained at large.

The undercover deal allowed JDB to use the Wanglaoji brand at annual cost of 5 million yuan. Guangzhou Pharmaceutical thought that

was too little. Wanglaoji, sold in JDB's red cans, had an annual sales volume of 20 billion yuan last year.

The average brand usage fee usually stands at 5 to 20 percent of a product's annual sales: 5 million yuan equals less than 0.09 percent, Guangzhou Pharmaceutical said.

Guangzhou Pharmaceutical filed a law suit against JDB last April. The arbitration commission ruled two weeks ago that the contract between the two companies' former heads to be invalid, and ordered JDB to stop using Wanglaoji for its herbal tea.

In a press conference in Beijing this week, JDB Group said it still claims the ownership of the original formula, and will continue to produce the herbal tea with the same recipe but under a different name.

Currently, consumers may find two Wanglaoji teas in the market: the one made by Guangzhou Pharmaceutical, which comes in a green box, and JDB's, which comes in a red can.

Domestic consumers are more familiar with the name on the red.

According to a Nielsen evaluation, the Wanglaoji trademark was valued at 108 billion yuan in 2010. In 2007, Wanglaoji beat beverage giant Coca-Cola in China with earnings of 9 billion yuan.

Industrial analysts attributed it to JDB's two decades of marketing and research.



Long Wei/IC Photo

The familiar red Wanglaoji cans will soon vanish from supermarkets shelves.

"JDB actually added a lot to the brand's value," said Wen Yijun, senior analyst at Oriental Securities in Beijing.

In 2002, when JDB started to produce its herbal tea under the name Wanglaoji, the brand only had an annual sales volume of less than 200 million yuan.

JDB spent more than 40 million yuan in advertising for Wang Laoji every year since 2003. In 2008, Wanglaoji topped 10 billion yuan.

That figure doubled last year.

Wen said consumers' rising demand for health drinks also contributed to Wanglaoji's popularity. "With growing incomes, more people began looking for healthier drinks. Herbal teas, with their medicinal properties, won ground against soft drinks," he said.

Wanglaoji's success inspired Coca-Cola to enter the herbal tea market in China.

At a press conference last week, Guangzhou Pharma-

ceutical announced it will do away with the red icon and will apply the trademark to series products like herbal wines, cosmetics and other healthcare products.

The company also started recruiting 3,000 salespeople earlier this month. Its goal is annual revenue of 50 billion yuan by the end of 2015.

But the company's performance seems contrary to this optimism. Sales of the less familiar Wanglaoji in green box totaled 1.9 billion yuan last year.

Netizens said they were disappointed and worried about the future of their favorite herbal tea. "It is like watching two kids fighting over a toy. In the end, the toy is broken and the kids are left crying," a netizen wrote on his Sina Weibo.

Analysts, however, said the verdict will bring war to the herbal tea market as other smaller tea firms scramble to boost their market share.

There will be intense

competition in pricing with market segmentation as former giant Wanglaoji faces uncertainty, Wen said.

"It is difficult for Guangzhou Pharmaceutical to replicate the success of JDB as it lacks the marketing experience," Wen said.

However, the job is equally tough for JDB to switch from Wanglaoji to its new brand. Since earlier this year, JDB has promoted both Jiaduobao and Wanglaoji on its red cans. But Wen said there is no guarantee that similar sales can be achieved under the Jiaduobao logo.

"That creates an excellent opening for other brands like Bawang, Heqingzheng and Denglao to grab a share of the market," Wen said.

Marketing concerns aside, Wen said there is a lesson to learn from this case. "Companies should pay more attention to their use of trademarks. Legal risks can be fatal and affect the long-term development of a company," he said.



By Niu Chen

A new report about the needs of young e-commerce entrepreneurs is being released at the 2012 E-commerce Conference, which will be held from May 28 to June 1 in Beijing.

Based on several surveys, the report lists the

Trade fair to boost service industry

challenges China's e-commerce businesses face in hopes of finding new solutions in the public.

Company executives such as Jeff Bezos, founder and CEO of Amazon.com, Jack Ma, founder and CEO of Alibaba Group, and Li Yanhong, founder and CEO of Baidu.com, will attend to speak about the development of e-commerce at home and abroad and fundraising.

Li Weiwei, deputy director of the Municipal Commission of Commerce, said Beijing's e-commerce industry is the strongest in the country. Online retail sales in the capital totaled 25.64 billion yuan in 2011, double the previous year.

Six companies in the Top 10 of e-commerce companies said their sales were concentrated in the capital - in fact, the capital's e-commerce

accounts for more than half of the nation's total.

The E-commerce Conference is part of the China (Beijing) International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS), an annual event hosted by the Ministry of Commerce and the Beijing municipal government.

CIFTIS is a national, comprehensive trade platform that covers 12 service trades, including business

and communication services. Events include forums, business talks, exhibitions and conferences.

"CIFTIS is the world's only comprehensive trade fair focused on the service industry," said Zhou Liujun, the director of the Department of Trade in Services under the Ministry of Commerce. "The fair brings together high-quality resources and world market information."

Lady Gaga's designer brings Nicopanda to China

By Bao Chengrong

Lady Gaga's prolific fashion director, Nicola Formichetti, visited Beijing for the first time last weekend and spoke to nine young designers from the China Central Academy of Fine Arts.

Half-Japanese and half-Italian, Formichetti called himself an "Asian bear" and welcomed his fans to call him "Nicopanda man."

"It was a rare chance for us to interact so closely with a giant of an artist like Nicola," said Liao Liujun, one of the designers.

The nine students who attended were invited to recreate the image of Nicopanda, a cartoon character created by Formichetti last year. Nicopanda was originally a digital image, but its online popularity encouraged Formichetti to bring the image to reality. He began to use it in multiple products, including T-shirt, rings, phone cases and tools.

The young designers brought their own concepts of individuality to their works. Jiang Chenyu incorporated elements of Peking Opera in his two pandas, giving them masks of Mu Guiying and Zhang Fei, characters in a traditional novel.

"It seems that he loves Chinese elements, and that's why he created the image of the panda," Jiang said.

Another student, Zhang Hanwen, created an Indian panda, which was so good that Formichetti said he would "steal" his idea.

Another piece that cap-



Nicola Formichetti shows Jiang Chenyu's work at the workshop.

tured Formichetti's heart was a bandit panda, which was a reflection of alternative culture.

"Some people may not think it is art, but I think it is great because doing different thing is always good," he said. "For me, it is beautiful art."

Inspired by the students and Chinese culture, Formichetti said he planned to make an army of pandas that incorporate local elements.

Fiona Qi, one of the organizers of the workshop, said the event gave Formichetti a chance to learn more about the ideas of young designers in China. Meanwhile, students could get a professional designer's perspective.



Formichetti's graffiti art at UCCA.

Photos by Bao Chengrong

Apart from being a stylist, Formichetti is also fashion director of Vogue Homme Japan and UNIQLO. He spends much of his time traveling to different places

to get fresh inspiration. His latest autumn and winter designs for Thierry Mugler menswear grabbed the attention of the fashion world. Rick Genest, the cool "Zombie Boy" model with tattoos on his face and body, brought out the darkness and romantic breadth of Formichetti's work.

Formichetti had humble beginnings though, starting as a store attendant in Pineal Eye, where he got the chance to work with fashion experts. Katy England, senior stylist of Dazed & Confused at that time, discovered the potential in Formichetti and invited him to join the magazine.

In 2009, Formichetti sensed the fashion sense of Lady Gaga and persuaded Vogue to take a series of photos for her. Wearing a black shoulder-pad suit, leather skirt and exaggerated make-up, Gaga shocked him at his first sight. But he soon realized they had the same aesthetics.

Eventually, Formichetti helped established the "House of Gaga," creating numerous flamboyant and weird styles for the pop star.

"The most shocking thing for me is that she is always the same," Formichetti said, noting that what you see is what you get when it comes to Lady Gaga.

"There is nothing she is not showing in public. It was kind of like the most shocking thing for me that she is always the same." Formichetti said.

Russian cellist fired for insulting woman



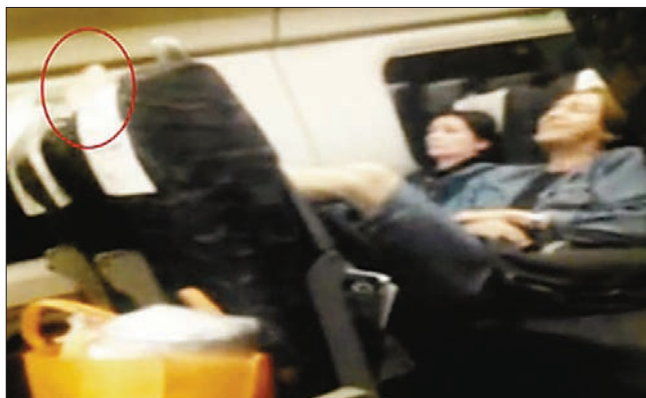
Oleg Vedernikov

By Yan Yi

The Russian cellist who verbally harassed a female passenger on a high-speed train last week has been fired by the Beijing Symphony Orchestra (BSO).

"His conduct has severely damaged the orchestra's reputation," the BSO said in a press conference on Tuesday. "We have decided to fire him in accordance with orchestra regulations and the terms of his employment contract."

The cellist Oleg Vedernikov was previously suspended for his behavior on a high-speed train from Shenyang to Shanghai on May 14. Vedernikov was filmed by a nearby passenger



Oleg Vedernikov filmed harassing a female passenger on a high-speed train last week.

Photos provided by YNET

rudely touching the head of a Chinese passenger with his bare feet and verbally abusing the woman. The video was later shared on Sina Weibo to

public outrage.

Vedernikov apologized via video, but did so in Russian, drawing more ire, since he verbally abused the woman

in Mandarin.

Vedernikov had been first chair, having been with the BSO for 10 years.

"Whether he can sign a new contract with the orchestra in July (when his current one was set to expire) is under further discussion," said a BSO spokesperson.

Earlier last week, a video of a British man molesting a woman in Beijing sparked a strong public reaction as well. Possibly as a result of these incidents, the city has announced it will do visa checks on foreigners who stay or work in the city, and those who reside illegally will be punished.

UNDP provides support to Chinese private businesses



Helen Clark

Photo provided by UNDP

By Serena Qiu

Under a project aimed at encouraging the Chinese private sector to enhance their corporate social responsibility (CSR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is helping private Chinese companies maximize both responsibility and profit.

Going beyond philanthropy

The new project will help private companies identify sustainable markets and create marketing techniques through a CSR training program that includes 1,000 Chinese companies.

The program is based on mutual learning and negotiating solutions to shared challenges.

"To succeed in the 21st century, businesses must pursue a triple bottom-line approach," said Helen Clark, administrator of the UNDP. "Put simply, businesses must see the economic, social and environmental dimensions of their operating costs."

UNDP's strategic alliances with the private sector are designed to tackle challenges of job creation and promote economic and social growth. Clark said meeting these challenges requires the ability to unlock the potential of markets at the bottom of the economic ladder. The project is supposed to show companies how to do just that.

Exploring overseas businesses

Amid China's growing overseas business interests, this project will

help companies learn CSR habits prior to going abroad, UNDP said in an announcement.

The project will also create case studies using the experiences of Chinese companies operating abroad.

The Chinese private sector can contribute to sustainable and equitable development, at home and abroad, Clark said. In the last decade, China-Africa trade has enjoyed annual growth rates of more than 30 percent.

Clark spoke of China's growing business interests overseas and said that, good or bad, more businesses are being placed in the international spotlight.

Inclusive markets

UNDP has been actively promoting strategies for the private sector, focusing on "growing inclusive markets." UNDP encourages companies to explore how they can make contributions to ending poverty a part of their business model.

"Companies we work with which are pursuing inclusive business models find that they are also able to achieve their corporate goals, benefiting from improved efficiency, cost savings, stronger branding, increased public trust, improved employee health and better market access," Clark said.

To date, UNDP partnerships have focused on improving energy efficiency, water management, biodiversity conservation and gender equality.

Rural women deserve more attention and praise

By Li Zhixin

While men continue moving to the city to find work, women are picking up the slack back home. More than 60 percent of rural women do farm work, said Cui Yu, the executive secretary of the All-China Women's Federation (ACWF), at an event on Monday themed "Women's Roles in Rural Development."

The event was co-hosted by ACWF and the UN System in China.

"Rural women have made undeniable contributions to the development of China's rural area," Cui said. "They deserve more attention and praise."

This event's theme is in line with the UN Commission on the Status of Women's priority theme for 2012, which is "the empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges."

The purpose of the event was to

highlight rural women's capabilities and discuss how to support them in their efforts to contribute to the world economy, social development and stability.

Cui said that ACWF has provided effective services for the development of rural women in recent years, helping them actively participate in democratic decision-making, productive labor force and national development.

She said that as of last year, the country had helped 20 million rural women learn to read, provided micro-loans totaling 67 billion yuan for women scattered in more than 2,400 counties and provided more than 6 million jobs.

Research shows that 83.6 percent of rural women participate in the election of village committees. They are involved in all aspects of village life.

"The Chinese have a saying: 'women hold up half the sky,'" Cui said. "It applies to rural women, as they rep-



Women discuss rural women's role in alleviating poverty at the ACWF event on Monday.

Photo provided by UN Women

resent 'half the sky' of rural economic development and social progress."

Abhimanyu Singh, UNESCO director, said on behalf of the UN System in China that while the world has made great strides in empowering rural women, more needs to be done.

"In many countries, rural women are still excluded from decision-making and the formal workforce," Singh said. "These barriers hamper rural women's ability to contribute to the productive development of their communities and nations, negatively impacting the entire population."

Singh also said that while China's

economy is growing at an unprecedented rate, "The incomes of rural women are rapidly declining in comparison to men; in 1990, the income of rural women was 79 percent that of men, but by 2010, this had fallen to just 56 percent."

He concluded by summarizing several programs that the UN System in China has implemented to address the needs of rural women.

"With determination and cooperation, we can all make a difference and enable rural women to realize their potential and their agency for change," he said.

Players converge for biggest Ultimate Frisbee tournament in China

By Anthony Tao

A college team from Tianjin University of Sport won the sixth annual China Nationals Ultimate Frisbee tournament over the weekend, held at the fields at Bayhood No. 9 Golf Complex between North Fourth and Fifth Ring Road.

The players in the finals on Sunday – which was Tianjin Speed vs. Graduates – played with abandon. Ultimate is a non-contact sport, but it also offers ample opportunity for exciting plays.

“It made for some high-light-reel plays, and it was really good for everyone to see the athleticism,” said Geoff Ng, an Ultimate player and editor at *City Weekend Shanghai*. “It reminded me of the NBA and NHL in the '80s when teams would just go for it, before all that was coached out of the sports.”

One player, Matt Wang of Graduates, broke his hand after a layout bid; he went to the sideline, got his hand taped, and later reentered the game.

After a closely contested first half, Speed eventually pulled away to win 15-8. Tianjin's Wang Wei was chosen the player of the tournament. It was the second time Speed has won China Nationals – they also captured the crown in 2010.

“I was very excited and happy to see our hard work pay off,” said Edward Wang, one of the founders of Speed and the de facto coach (not related to either of the two other Wangs). “But winning was only one part of the fun. The spirit was also important.”

Edward Wang said the team practiced three to four times a week in the last month.

Ultimate Frisbee was invented in the US in 1968 and introduced to China in the late '90s. China Nationals, which was held for the fifth straight year in Beijing, is the showcase event of the sport in China.

More than 400 players participated this year, an all-time high. There was also a record number of teams: 24, with 19 in the Chinese division and five in the foreign division. Teams came from as far as Changsha, Nanjing and Hong Kong.

“For the first time we had two high school teams,” said Alicia Lui, tournament director. “Like in any sport and activity, you want the kids to start playing when they're young.”

“There were also two teams that were here for the first time



Beijing Big Brother vs. Shanghai Huwa at the 6th annual China National Ultimate Frisbee tournament



Liang Zhuang of Graduates, who won a finals MVP award in 2010 when he played for Tianjin Speed, chases after a disc.



Tournament director Alicia Lui (left) congratulates the winners of this year's China Nationals.



Tianjin Speed, champions

Photos by Anthony Tao

from Brodie Smith (a big-name American Ultimate player), they're following anything they can get their hands on that's Ultimate-related.

“That to me is a really big step: a good indication for the future of the sport, because without the passion and without the enthusiasm, the sport won't grow.”

Lui also pointed out that Ultimate has inspired the rise of homegrown companies like Yikun Sports.

Founded in 2008 by six Ultimate enthusiasts, Yikun was an official sponsor of this year's China Nationals, supplying discs to every participant and other prizes.

“The development of China Ultimate is steady and fast ... we'd love to support this great event as much as we can, and to make it a great experience for players and spectators,” said Robin Yao, Yikun co-founder. “We'd love to see more and more people enjoy this great sport.”

As for the future, there's talk of moving the tournament to another city next year, possibly in the south to encourage the growth of the sport there.

“If it moves out of Beijing successfully, that means Ultimate has really made it in China,” said Andy Young, who was on this year's tournament's organizing committee. “Beijing and Tianjin are the hotbeds of Ultimate (among Chinese teams) right now, but if someone else steps up, it should really help spread the sport.”

in Nanjing and Xi'an.”

Xi'an almost won the B pool bracket for 9th place, losing in its final game to Air Woo, a team from Wuhan.

In the foreign bracket, Shanghai Huwa beat Beijing Big Brother in the finals.

Lui, who was assistant tournament director last year, said

she was particularly impressed by the response the tournament generated in the media – both social and traditional. CCTV-5 produced a three-minute morning news story about Ultimate, while *Sports Illustrated China* plans on publishing a feature.

“You could feel the enthu-

siasm from the players on Weibo, too,” Lui said. “It's not just that they care about Frisbee in China – if you look at the threads on Weibo, they're actively talking about professional games, like the American Ultimate Disc League in the US, they're watching instructional and viral videos

Baby foster home seeking volunteers and donations

By Liu Xiaochen

Last Saturday morning, developers evicted the residents of a foster home at Jiulong Garden – including 15 infants – forcing them to move to a foster home in Tiantongyuan.

More than 30 children were already at Tiantongyuan, and with the influx of bodies, foster parents fear it's now overcrowded.

Up to six babies share each 10-square-meter room. Caregivers worry that, with the summer coming, residents are at risk of catching transmittable diseases in such confined spaces.

Worse, the power supply in Tiantongyuan is unreliable, and the children drink only bottled water to ensure safety.

Tianshizhijia, meaning "home of angels," was founded by a group of mothers at the end of 2007, is supported by Children's Hope Foundation. In the last four years, the home has fostered 106 children in the first five years of their lives. The children all have congenital ailments, such as heart disease, cleft lip or cerebral palsy.

Forty orphans have been adopted by other families and given new lives.

The staff does its best with the limited resources it has, but members said that donations are always needed to pay for the children's needs and emergency medical expenses, which can total hundreds of thousands of yuan per year.

The staff and volunteers are also in desperate need of donations in order to move some of the orphans to a new place.

Deng Zhixin, who is in charge of the foster home, said the babies need a place that is at least 2,000 square meters within Sixth Ring Road.

Donations – which will be publicized on the official website for full transparency – will also be used to pay the sala-



Tianshizhijia fosters abandoned children.



The volunteers help children find permanent homes.

CFP Photos

ries of caretakers and staff, and to buy toys, medicine and other needs for the children.

The home is also currently recruiting kindergarten teachers, nurses and people to fill other positions for the long term. Volunteers are also appreciated: those with nursing experience are preferred,

but anyone can help.

Where: Tianshi Zhijia, Yard 31, Dongsanqi Cun, Beiqijia Zhen, Changping District.

Tel: 5288 0552 or 13910410831

Email: help@angelmom.org

For more information, check out www.angelmom.org.

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiy@ynet.com

I need to get some food coloring, vanilla, almond, rose water essence, corn syrup and glucose. Is there a place in Chaoyang district?

You can go to BHG marketplace in the basement of Solana. Or you can go to Shinkong Place.

BHG

Where: Solana Mall, 6 Chaoyang Gongyuan Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 5905 6565

Shinkong Place

Where: 87 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6530 5888

I'd like to build my own hi-fi loudspeakers and would need to find a place with decent woodworking tools. Is there any DIY woodworking workshop in Beijing?

There are plenty of wood stalls at Dongjiao Market. They will cut whatever you need on the spot according to your requirements.

Dongjiao Market

Where: Jia 12, Xi Dawang Lu, Chaoyang District

I want to know if Beijing offers an international drivers licenses (IDL). Also, if I have an international driving license, can I drive here now?

You can only get an IDL if you already have a valid driving license from one of the countries that are party to the IDL program, and China is not. In other words, you need to get a Chinese driving license.

Where can I find a coffee maker that makes large pots? I went to Carrefour and found they were too tiny.

You can get some bigger sizes from Metro, or check on Taobao. Another option is to ask a your favorite cafe for their distributor's number.

My friends from the US are visiting Beijing for their first time next month. I am looking for a decent but affordable hotel in the downtown. Any suggestion?

There are quite a few nice hotels in hutong. If they are young and enjoy night-life scene, try yoyohotel.cn or Ibis Beijing hotel.

(By Wei Ying)

School opens for shadow puppetry

By Annie Wei

The city's first shadow puppet school opened last week at Tianqiao, on the south side of Beijing. The school is devoted to teaching traditional performances.

It will offer exhibitions, lectures and training, and is open to all.

Where: Tianqiao Theater, 30 Beiwei Lu, Xuanwu District
Tel: 8315 6337

Beijing Shadow Puppet Theater Group

Where: 95 Tianqiao Shichang, Beiwei Lu, Xuanwu District
Tel: 6303 3579

CFP Photo



Pinggu valley rocks on



Xu Wei



Fans cheer their favorite stars.

By Bao Chengrong

Hundreds of fans danced in the pouring rain to performances by The Jesus and Mary Chain and Chinese rock star Xu Wei at the three-day international music festival in Pinggu Valley.

The performances by eight foreign acts, six of whom were from the UK, and eight domestic ones began on the afternoon of May 18.

Unlike the first international music festival held last year, the ground at Yuyang International Ski Resort was covered in grass, enabling people to sit when they needed a break. Fans stayed in rented tents by night and used the washroom to shower.

"Every moment I spent here is one I will remember forever," said Yang Fang, 25, who attended the festival with his girlfriend.

Yang and his girlfriend came for Chinese rock stars Xu Wei and Wang Feng, but were surprised to discover foreign bands such as The Jesus and Mary Chain.

Heavy rains didn't dampen their enthusiasm on the second day, and by the afternoon of the third the sun decided to peek out.

The top foreign bands were The Jesus and Mary Chain, a Scottish noise pop band founded by brothers William and Jim Reid in 1984, and Joss Stone, the youngest female singer to top the UK Albums Chart. Stone, the last performer at the festival, wore a qipao when she took the stage.

But it was the Chinese performers that the crowd loved.

Xu Wei and Wang Feng took the stage to wild cheers. Both are known for their original compositions and stage presence.

Xu's songs reflect his thoughts on life. His first two albums are filled with desperation and rage, while his third is warm and sad.

Wang's music has also changed over the years. His songs, usually profound reflections on life, struck a chord with listeners when they touched on the emptiness and confusion of modern people.

Hu Jiayue, a 24-year old fan, said she preferred to see Wang play live rather than buy

his albums.

"I can download my favorite songs online. The sound may be slightly inferior to the CDs, but it's free," Hu said.

For young people in China who have grown up with the Internet, the act of buying an album is unthinkable. The few people who do purchase music inevitably rip and share it with their friends online.

That attitude has the music industry in a crisis.

Record labels have been plunging since 2007, with EMI Records — one of the world's Top 4 labels — running a heavy debt. RCA, a historic brand now used by Sony Music Entertainment, closed its three subsidiaries last year, forcing Britney Spears, the Backstreet Boys and Usher to find new promoters.

In Korea, the president of Taihe Rye Music, Song Ke, even announced his company would no longer sign any new singers and that it would be transforming into a digital rights management company. Taihe Rye was at one time the largest pop label in the Chinese mainland, promoting singers such as Pu Shu and Li Yuchun.

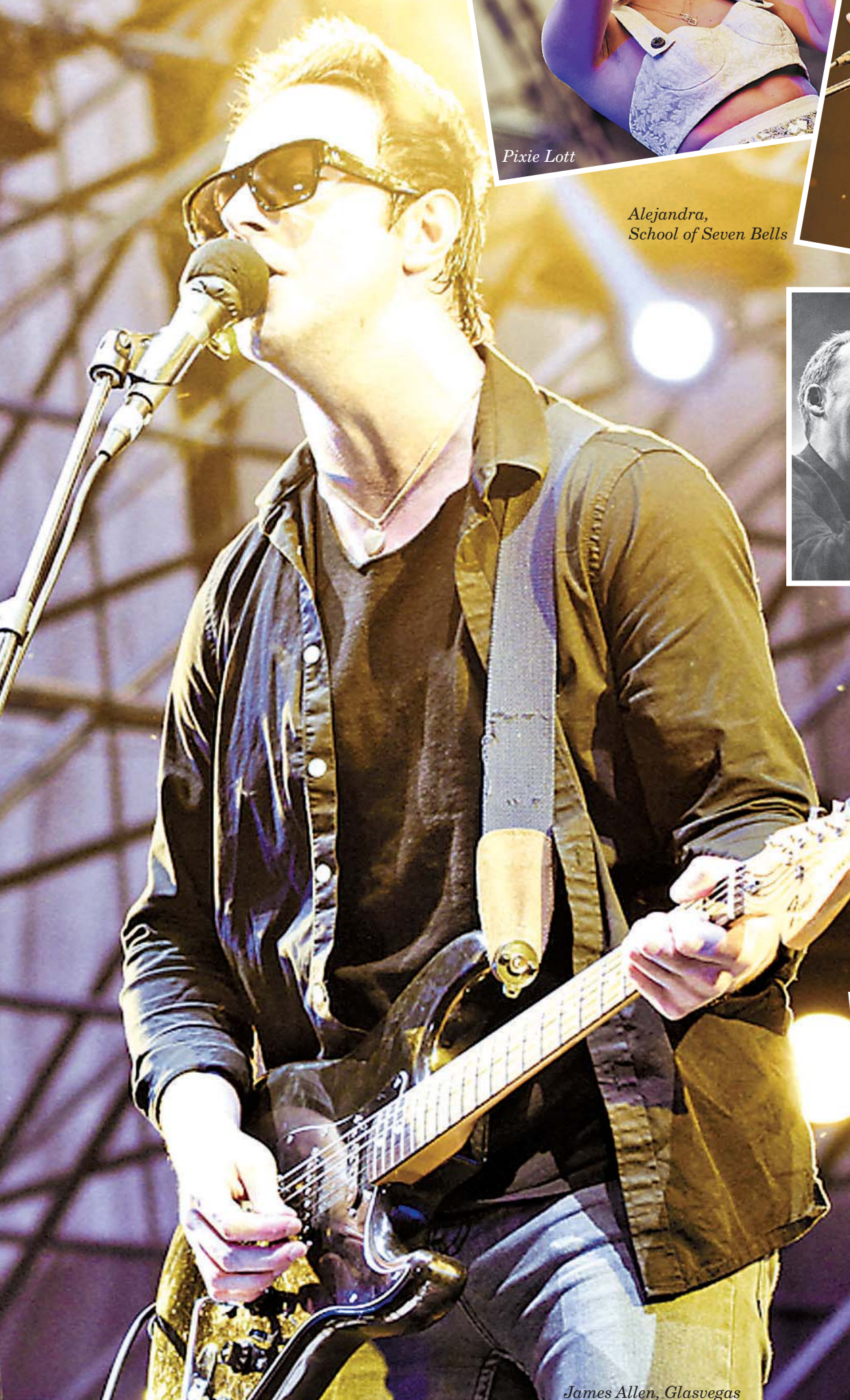
The situation has stressed singers as well, especially musicians who are trying to make a living through their work. In 2007, mainland singers could hardly sell 1,000 albums per month.

The trend has been blamed on poor protection of music copyrights. Albums and songs are frequently sold on the gray market and distributed for free on the Internet.

"Lyrics and melodies are the soul of music. Without copyrights, the creators' rights are not protected. It's a situation that is dooming music to extinction," said Xu Xiaofeng, manager of Country Music Creative Industry Base. Digital distribution models are also carving up the industry's traditional distribution model.

For musicians who are looking for new sources of revenue, events like the international music festival in Pinggu offer a rare opportunity.

at



Pixie Lott

*Alejandra,
School of Seven Bells*



*The Jesus and
Mary Chain*



Fan Xiaoxuan



Rab Allan, Glasvegas

James Allen, Glasvegas

Photos provided by organizers/CFP

Sugimoto blends mediums in contemporary exhibition

By Liu Zhenghua

Japanese multimedia artist Hiroshi Sugimoto, whose works blur the lines between photography, painting, installation and architecture, is holding his first solo exhibition in Beijing.

The 30 pieces selected for exhibition by Pace Beijing are intended to introduce local gallery-goers to the contemporary art scene of greater Asia.

The collection focuses on three types of subject matter: diorama, theater and seascapes, which curator David Elliot called the artist's fundamental trinity of genres.

"Time is the fundamental conception of all my works. *Natural Museums* are about past times, *Old Theaters* express fragments of time and *Seascapes* pays attention to eternal time," Sugimoto said, explaining how the three series are connected in his works.

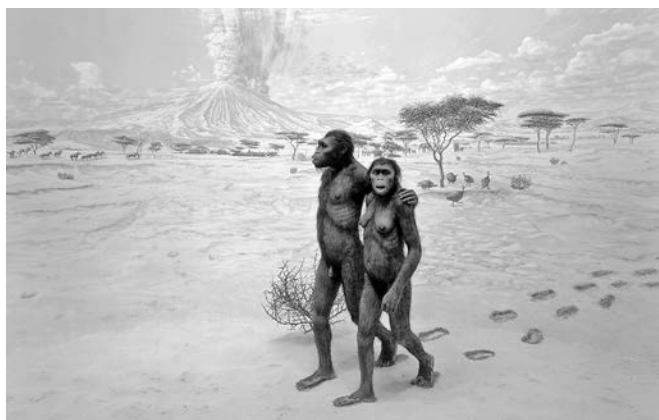
Sugimoto's style owes much of his look to his continued use of silver halide as a photographic medium.

"After 170 years, the tide of digital photography has swept away silver halide, leaving me all alone," he said. "However, I must say I rather enjoy keeping to my solitary efforts in the abandoned realm of analog silver."

Through a keen understanding of the nuances of silver printmaking, Sugimoto unlocks its full potential for tonal richness in his infinite palette of blacks, whites and grays.

His photography has been praised by Pan Li, a vice professor at Renmin University of China and a Japanese art researcher.

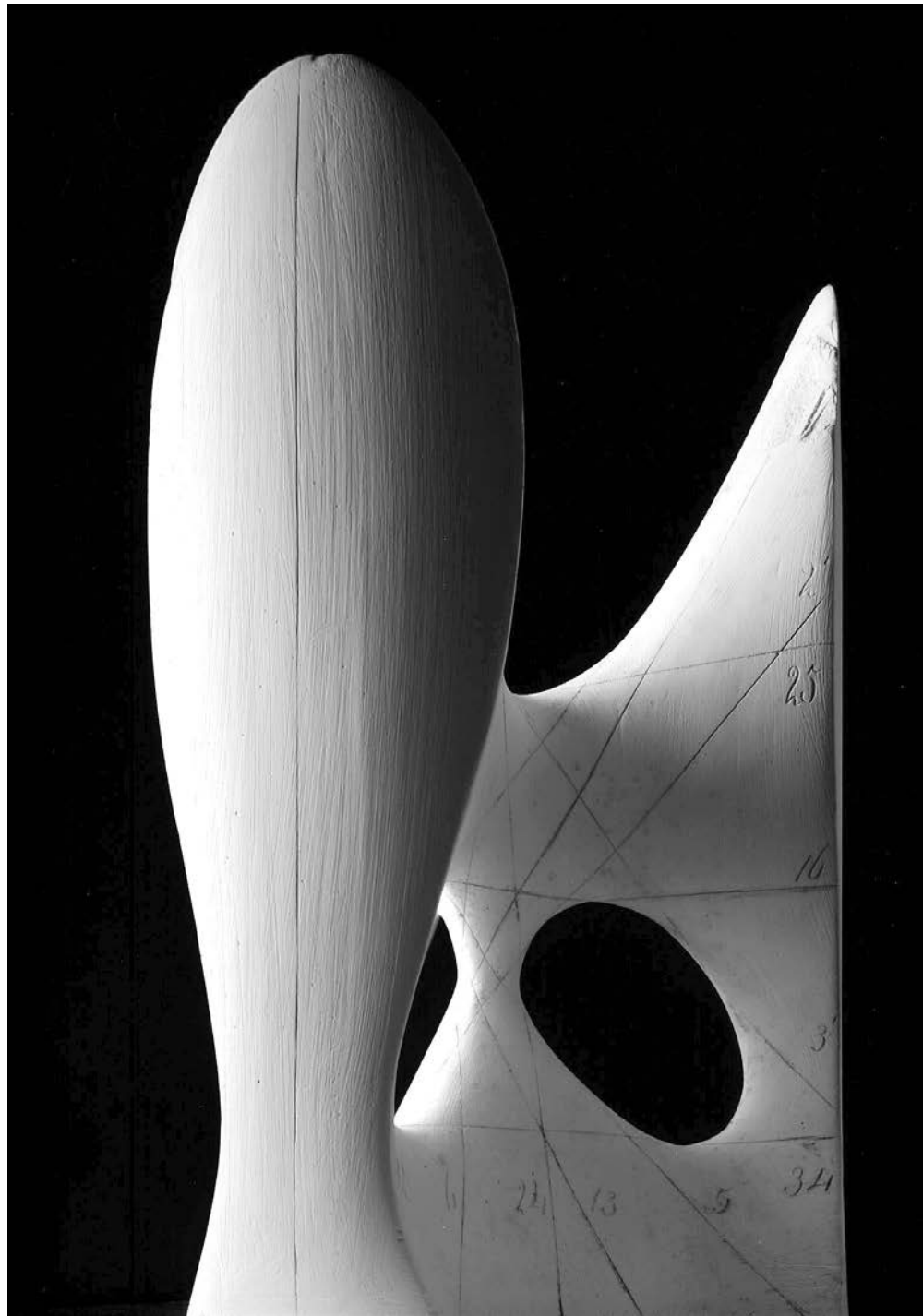
"[His] impeccable black and white language and diamond-like clear-cut and sharp images vividly show the charm of photography," Pan said.



Earliest Human Relatives, 1994



Lightning Fields 182, 2009



Conceptual Forms 2012

Photos by Liu Zhenghua

Sugimoto goes further in his latest series, *Lightning Fields*, to explore his photographic language. The series features structures resembling organic, primordial forms. The photos were created in a darkroom, without the use of a camera, by subjecting unexposed film to different voltages of electrical currents using homemade tools.

There is an unrestrained sense of movement and energy in these images, suggesting the origin of life at its first spark of inception. The artist said he sees in his photos the spark of life itself – the lightning that struck the primordial ooze.

He is also displaying *Conceptual Forms*, a series showing his interest in

photographing mathematical models. Sugimoto said he is drawn to the purity of form and fragility of such vintage, 19th century plaster objects.

Sugimoto was born in 1948 in Tokyo. He cites Asian art as his greatest influence, and says he has studied Chinese and Japanese art intensively.

"My favorite works are the masterpieces of the past. I learned my infinite monochrome tonalities from Song dynasty ink paintings. After the fall of the Song in the 13th century, many magnificent ink paintings found their way to Japan," he said.

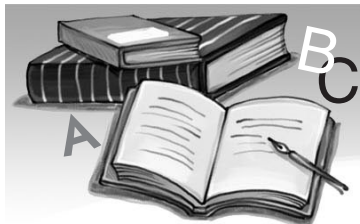
"I was especially captivated by Mu Qi's Eight Views of the Xiao and Xiang, one of the greatest naturalist pieces the East has ever produced. Like-

wise, my *Seascapes* (series) was inspired by Ma Yuan's depictions of flowing water," he said.

Sugimoto earned his Master's degree at the Art Center College of Design in 1974, when contemporary art was coming to prominence in the US. From his studies in the US, he gained a new understanding of the spirit of Asian art.

Sugimoto achieved a first in the mid-1970s for his series *New York Natural Museums*, in which he used an 8-by-10-inch camera to express the state of life in ancient times, Pan Li said. The vast wilderness of chaos under his camera conveyed a soul-stirring historical panorama.

His latest exhibition will be open through July 7.



News for kids, by kids.

No one knows better than Chinese parents how the future depends on children: most spare no effort to be “wolf dads” and “tiger moms” to send their children down the path to success.

As part of its commitment to young readers, *Beijing Today*, together with *Middle School Times* and *Beijing Children's Weekly*, is beginning a weekly education report to share the views and events happening in the lives of Chinese youth.

What are they saying?



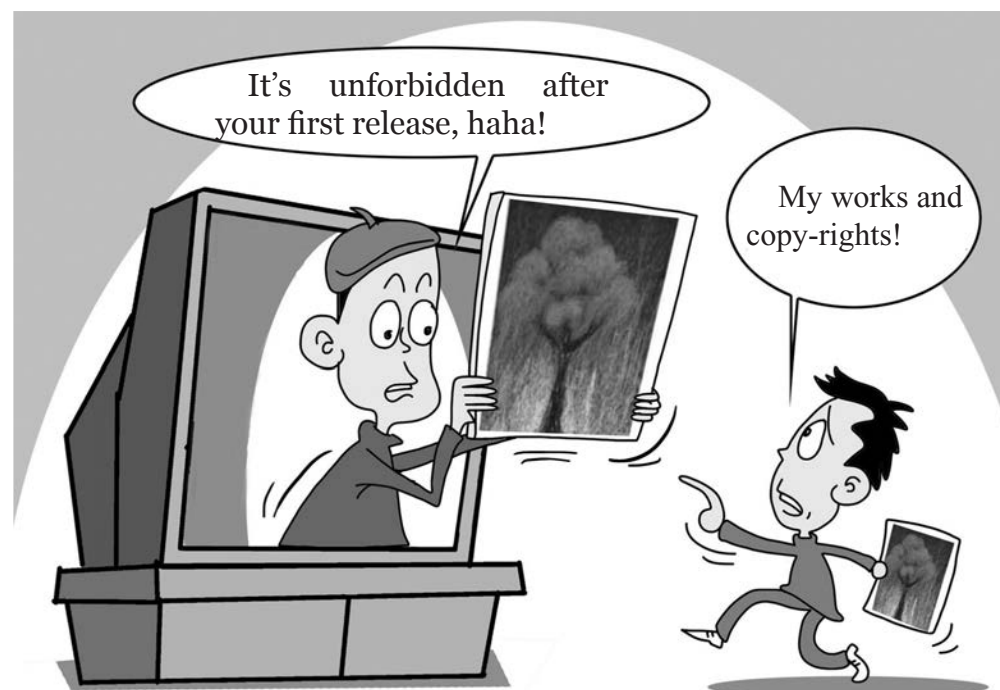
The State Council recently published a revised version of its law on intellectual property. Among the changes is one section that would limit the control musicians have over their work after three months.

The law, likely intended to facilitate remixing, allows producers of other sound recordings to exploit any published work without needing the copyright holder's permission only three months after its original creation.

Musicians have reacted strongly to the change, with many condemning the draft. The Music Copyright Society of China has called for a redaction of this change from the current draft of the law.

Lawmakers said the change was to strengthen China's protection of intellectual property rights, saying the change would

Who is the new IPR law protecting?



CFP Photo

“prevent monopolies and protect IPR.”

This is hogwash. If we think it from a creator's perspective, it becomes clear

that this is an assault on the profession. How can one survive as a creator when his or her works become free to reuse only three months after

being published?

This is one of many reasons that musicians are leaving the industry in search of more sustainable careers.

Lyricists and composers can hardly earn enough to feed their families as it is.

Musical talents have a right to earn a living through their excellent works, just as people in all other professions.

Laws like this force creators to withdraw their talent and stop creating. If Chinese content creators leave the market, then it will be up to creators from the US, Europe and South Korea to fill in the gap. This will seriously damage the future of China's music industry.

The government should actually consult with the people it says it's protecting before drafting such a law. Feedback is essential if it wants the law to win majority support rather than slay a profession.

— Duan Tianlin, student, Beijing No. 4 Middle School

What do they care?



Everything is smaller in Japan

The Japanese are famous for conserving resources, but I couldn't imagine just how much they conserve until I saw.

This month, I was one of the 20 Beijing middle school students who visited the country.

Even before landing at Narita International Airport in east Tokyo, we could see out the windows that the airport had been built on reclaimed land.

The hotel we lived at and items we used were tiny, but convenient and sufficient. The television was only 18 inches, refrigerator was small and bed folded up and into the walls.

The “avenues” were only two-lane streets, but they never suffered from traffic jams.

I ordered a lunch of noodles for 800 yen (64 yuan). The bowls were only large enough

to contain a small serving of noodles that wouldn't fill you up, but would get you to the next meal.

The Japanese have lived on limited natural resources throughout history, and learning to conserve has become an essential part of their culture.

— Wang Congxing, student & reporter, Middle School News Agency

Navy exercises by China and Russia

From April 22 to 27, the Chinese and Russian navies held military exercises in the Yellow Sea, east of China.

The action was significant, because maritime power is becoming increasingly important for Chinese and Russian national interests.

Russia, for example, is grappling with Japanese demand for the return of four small islands in Okhotsk Sea.

China too has disputes with South Korea over the Suyan Shoal in the northern part of the East China Sea, with Japan over the Diaoyu Islands and with a number of Southeast nations over the shoals of the South China Sea.

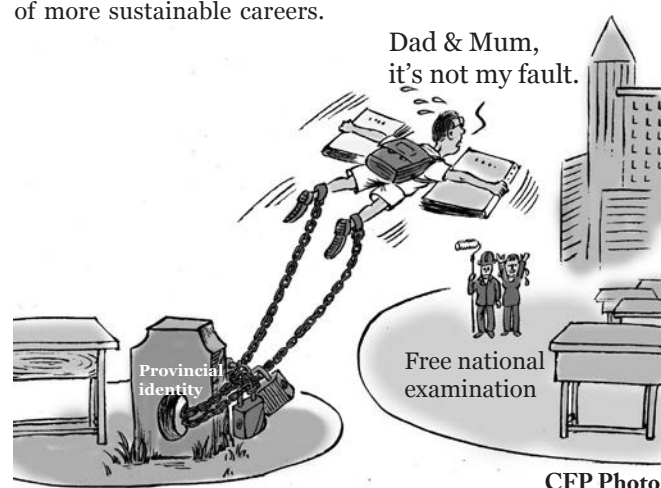
While both countries have been focusing on strengthening their internal economy, it would be a mistake to think the rest of the world is sitting idle.

Even students like us can feel there is a great power behind these challenges and conflicts on territories.

Such a display of power may be the only way to assert ourselves without ending up in a real fight.

Using military action should be the last option when it comes to settling a dispute.

— Zhang Zeyuan, student, Beijing No. 11 Middle School



CFP Photo

When can we choose where to test?

Earlier this year, the ministry of education proposed a plan that would allow high school students to take the National College Entrance Exam anywhere they like.

It is really good news, especially for migrants. Many children have lived in the cities for decades, but their children still have to return to their hometown to take the entrance exam.

The draft could end the imbalance those students face.

Beijing has a population of 20 million, 9 million of whom

are migrants. Each year, many of us return to our hometowns to take the exam, clogging up roads and rail networks across the country.

More importantly, enrollment scores for each university favor students who take the test in the city rather than in the countryside.

We hope this plan will be implemented soon — hopefully during this year.

— Li Yuansi, student, Beijing No. 171 Middle School

(By Zhao Hongyi)

Street style for outdoor concerts



Photographer
Yang Yidong

By Annie Wei

For fashion shoppers, street style is a prominent source of inspiration. This week, *Beijing Today* sent photographer Yang Yidong on a mission to identify styles he likes at popular concerts.

Yang gave us a little extra, showing us how to use street style to capture a photographer's attention.



A bit of vintage and a bit of rock 'n' roll



Bright colors

"Black is a safe color, but it hides your personality," Yang said. For summer parties, black is boring. "We prefer shooting a color-dyed dog to a girl all in black."

For those who aren't comfortable with bright colors, Yang suggested minimizing the use of black as a first step.

A lot of people are used to wearing dark jeans and black T-shirts during the summer, but maybe they can think about pairing that black T-shirt with a pair of candy-colored pants?

"A beauty is not born, she is made with a determined mind," Yang said.

Vintage + floral prints

It's important to use Chinese or vintage elements smartly, Yang said. "I personally don't like a woman who overexposes herself distastefully. Vintage clothes are normally more conservative and they are 'in,'" he said. "So are floral prints. They are very summer and feminine."

Irregular skirt hems

Skirts and hems that are shorter in the front and longer in the back are popular this year. You can find plenty in this style from brands like ASOS, Zara and H&M.

Funky shoes

"You can wear sneakers or slippers to an outdoor party, but not when meeting the office's executive staff," Yang said.

It doesn't matter whether the shoe color matches your outfit, as long as it looks daring and stands out, he said.

"Vertiginous heels and off-kilter platforms are popular this year," Yang said. You can try Irregular Choice, a show brand with eye-catching products. It was founded by British designer Danny Sullivan in 1999 and quickly became a popular high-street brand. Its design adopts fairy-tale patterns and funky luxury, welcome by women between 18 and 35 years old.

The British shoe brand Irregular Choice only arrived in Hong Kong last month, but its products, ranging from 700 to 1,000 yuan are available on Taobao stores such as Little Britain (shop33596634.taobao.com)



Irregular Choice
CFP Photos

At Beijing's outdoor music concerts
this year

Photos by Yang Yidong

Home-style Dai cuisine in the heart of the college district

By Guo Yao

Anyone who's hung around the campuses in Haidian District knows Baoqin, an eatery that offers authentic Dai ethnic cuisine from Yunnan Province.

For 15 years, the restaurant has provided natural regional dishes. It recently took 50 days off for renovations, but it's reopened better than ever.

The Dai's region is rich with water, so locals incorporate fish into many of their meals. The fish with Yunnan pickles (39 yuan) tastes sour and spicy, but tender. Fried fish with straw (39 yuan) has a rich taste due to the use of ginger, parsley and red peppers.

There are several chicken dishes that are also recommended: deep-fried chicken with vanilla (29 yuan) is

crispy; steam-pot chicken (20 yuan for small pot, 36 yuan for big) comes in a delicious soup; and chicken in bamboo (30 yuan) not only has unique garnishing but is served with bamboo, complete with a light bamboo aroma.

The best-known Dai dish, ordered by almost every table, is the pineapple rice (32 yuan), which is glutinous and sweet.

Don't miss the Dai rice wine (16 yuan) either. When you sip it, the fragrance really comes to the fore. It is delicious, sweet and low in alcohol. Bottles are available (28 yuan for 1.25 liters and 30 yuan for 1.5 liters) for takeaway.

Besides these dishes, the restaurant's specialties include stewed spiced pork elbow (58 yuan), fried minced three vege-

tables with pork (25 yuan) and potato balls (18 yuan).

The restaurant said it ensures the food's freshness by flying in ingredients from Yunnan and using only quality Beijing suppliers.

The waiters are Dai people. Many patrons enjoy listening to their dialect.

The restaurant's founder, a professor at Minzu University, took the photos that hang on the walls decades ago back at his hometown, a Dai area for recruiting students.

As one of the most popular restaurants among students in this area, there's usually a line for tables.

Baoqin Dai Restaurant

Where: 16 Weigong Jie, Haidian District

Open: 11 am – 9:30 pm

Tel: 6848 3189



Pineapple rice, 32 yuan

Photos by Guo Yao



Inside Baoqin



Potato balls, 18 yuan

Better beer in demand for summertime



Quality beers

By Annie Wei

The last two years have seen an increase in demand for quality beer with unique flavors, especially among the younger drinkers.

Beijing Today scouted a new restaurant that offers authentic German food and beer, as well as a new group promoting home brews.

Authentic German food and beer

Flensburger Brauhaus, a new German restaurant located in the central business district, features big windows and a nice view – though people don't come for just that.

Its imported Flensburger beers are a must-try. The brand was established in 1888 and all beers are manufactured according to a 1516 law that requires beer to include only water, wheat, hops and yeast. Its beer is delicious and fresh.

We recommend the German sausage. The restaurant offers both imported and locally made varieties. The latter is better because it uses less salt.

There are eight kinds of

sausages (69 yuan) – paired with tomatoes, cabbage salads or French fries – including German-style snail sausage, pork sausage, cheese sausage, Munich sausage and roasted meatloaf.

"We use no more than half the amount of salt of German-made sausages," said Jacky Zhou, the food and beverage operation director.

The restaurant's pork knuckles (1.5 kilograms) in dark sauce served with mashed potatoes and a dinner roll (189 yuan) is the most recommended. It takes seven hours to prepare the knuckles to be soft, tender and full of chewy collagen. The skin is crispy.

We also like its Bavarian

pretzel with butter (15 yuan per piece).

Flensburger has a wide collection of menu items, including several dozen salads, pizzas, traditional German dishes, fish and seafood, pasta and desserts. The servings are big and the prices are mid-level. Examples include: mushroom soup (39 yuan), risotto (48 yuan), saffron steamed mussels with crème fraîche (79 yuan) and home-made apple pie with rum and raisin ice cream (39 yuan).

Flensburger Brauhaus

Where: W-105 World Financial Center, 1 Dong Sanhuan Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – midnight

Tel: 8587 8488



Flensburger beer

Photos by Zhou Baoling

Home brewing group

The rise of beer stores like Heaven Supermarket (50 meters west of the Sanlitun Police Station, Chaoyang District; tel: 6415 6513) and Great Leap Brewing (6 Doujiao Hutong, Dongcheng District; tel: 5717 1399) have attracted a group of loyal customers who enjoy good beers.

A Sina Weibo group of home brewers, including locals and foreigners, opened Monday. It has attracted 100 followers, and many are leading brewers such as Gao Yan, brewery consultant and founder of Oktoberfest.

The first event will be hosted on June 2 with a dozen members presenting their home brew beers. Anyone interested can check the upcoming beijingbrewing.com for more details.

Airline

British brands join up to craft sky kitchen

British Airways has teamed with the up-market supermarket chain Waitrose and other great British brands to offer luxurious new food products for business class customers on long-haul flights from Heathrow.

The airline is offering popular products from Waitrose and Cadbury, as well as a selection of smaller high-quality British brands such as The Ice Cream Union, a London ice cream company, Teonis, an artisan bakery in Devon, and Beckleberry's, a pastry maker from northeast England.

The new range will be included in the British Airways Club Kitchen, a firm favorite with business class travelers that offers a variety of in-flight treats and light snacks.

The change is one of many catering enhancements the airline has introduced,



including Tuck boxes in World Traveler class, Club World meals in World Traveler Plus and Laurent-Perrier Grand Siècle in first class.

The airline will invest more than £5 billion (50 billion yuan) in new aircrafts, smarter cabins, elegant lounges and new technologies to increase comfort both in the air and on the ground.

Jetstar achieves top honor at Changi Airline Awards

Jetstar has bolstered its standing as Singapore's top low-fares carrier by winning the Partner of the Year award at the Changi Airlines Awards 2012.

The award recognizes Jetstar's performance in innovation, growth and connectivity.

Bruce Buchanan, CEO of Jetstar Group, said the award reflected the group's effort to develop



its Singapore hub.

"Good airlines require good partners like CAG who understand the nature

of our low-cost model and how to work together to maximize opportunities to build growth.

"In Singapore, our success has been driven by the support of innovations such as first-time long-haul travel, interline partnerships and new routes to growing Chinese cities," Buchanan said.

Jetstar is currently the largest and most profitable LCC in Singapore.

Rent

Spacious Beixinqiao courtyard

This 400-square-meter courtyard has three bedrooms, three bathrooms, a nanny room, a playroom, a private yard and a roof terrace.

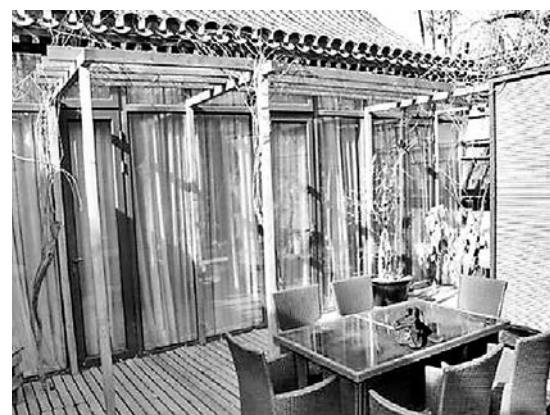
All the rooms are well connected and equipped with floor heating systems, furniture and appliances.

There is also a garden, a goldfish pond and a parking place.

Rent: 50,000 yuan per month

Tel: 6420 0262, 18210890200

Email: annie@shanghome.net



Dining

"Meat Me" Fridays

Enjoy a sensational buffet of the capital's finest cuts of meat!

The Hilton Beijing's Elements is serving up the meaty buffet every Friday night. The weekly feast includes Australian beef tenderloin, German sausage, prime rib, lamb chops, barbecue ribs, kabobs and veal.

Balance your diet with a selection of soups, salads, pasta and sushi.

Where: Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Every Friday, 6-10 pm

Cost: 328 yuan with local beer and soft drinks; add 108 yuan for house wine or Stella Artois draft beer (15 percent gratuity)

Tel: 5865 5020



Hotel

Sleep deeply

Switch off your mind and body and enjoy a powerful state of deep relaxation.

This body and face massage uses carefully applied pressure and essential oil to leave you relaxed and ready for sleep.

Where: The Westin Beijing Chaoyang, 7 Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until June 30

Cost: 950 yuan for 90 minutes

Tel: 5922 8531



China World Summit Wing awarded five stars

China World Summit Wing, Beijing received its five-star ranking on May 12.

The China National Tourism Administration, China Tourism Association and Beijing Municipal Commission of Tourism Development attended the ceremony with managers from the China World Trade Center and China World Summit Wing.

The soonest a hotel can apply to the Industrial Management Corporation for five-star classification is one year after opening. The China World Summit Wing submitted its application last September.

During the process, the hotel's general manager and deputy general manager instructed the staff about the requirements of the five-star standard to ensure



everyone would be able to comply.

"We are honored and delighted to be awarded the Five-Star Classification, which is the result of the hard work of all of our colleagues and of our guests' support. We will continue to do even better in the future," said Adrian Rudin, general manager of China World Summit Wing, Beijing.

Fri, May 25



Nightlife

Blood of Folk Music

Folk singers and bands participating in this event include Goumao, Buyi, Gangzi and Shi Xiaofei. The purpose of this folk night is to give people more chances to experience original music.

Where: Hongdian Art Factory, 36 Guangqu Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 9-11:30 pm

Admission: 40-60 yuan

Tel: 5205 1113



Exhibition

"Flower" by Araki Nobuyoshi

Araki Nobuyoshi started his career taking pictures of flowers in his hometown in 1967. The flowers in this exhibition are painted with pigments by Nobuyoshi as a way to memorialize his deceased wife.

Where: Yian Gallery, 798 Dong Jie, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until May 28, 9 am - 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5978 9280

Drama

Where Does the Sound of Singing Come From?

This drama is about the corrupting influence of power and fame in the absence of moral restriction. The screenwriter, Tong Daoming, is a drama critic and translator of Russian literature. Zhang Ziyi, a graduate of the Central Academy of Drama, directs this drama.

Where: Capital Theater, Level 4, 22 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 7:30-10:30 pm

Admission: 80 yuan

Tel: 6400 6472

Sun, May 27



Salon

50 Years of British Rock

Rockarchive is an alliance of online photographers who take photos for rock stars, founded by photographer Jill Furmanovsky in 1998. She will appear in this exhibition to introduce ideas about photography and rock'n'roll.

Where: Liangdian Design Centre, 94 Dongsi Shitiao, Dongcheng District

When: 3-4:30 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6590 6903



Mon, May 28



Script Reading

Reading "The Story of Gao Zhifei" and "Story of the White Rabbit"

Playwright and director Ren Mingyong wrote "The Story of Gao Zhifei." "Story of the White Rabbit" is written by Liu Hongqing and directed by Xin Peng.

Where: Penghao Theater, 35 Dong Mianhua Hutong, Dongcheng District

When: Until May 29, 7:30-10:30 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6400 6472



Music

Oklahoma!

This classic Broadway musical features an award-winning repertoire suitable for the whole family. Thirty excellent players from the countries round the world will take part in this extravaganza.

Where: Hongdian Art Factory, 36 Guangqu Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until June 3, 7-9 pm

Admission: 260-300 yuan (half price for students and children)

Tel: 5205 1112

Sat, May 26



Music

INTRO 2012 Electronic Music Festival

INTRO has become the largest and the most important electronic music festival since being introduced to China in 2009. This year's festival features three stages and 40 artists from around the world. Foreign artists include Gui Boratto, Christian Smith, Anthony Collins and DJ Michael Vonplon.

Where: 751 D-Park, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 1-10 pm

Admission: 100-300 yuan

Tel: 15811495826

Movie

The History of Movie

It took director Mark Cousins five years to make this movie, which spans six continents. The film shows the history of cinema in the past 120 years, with clips from a thousand-some works.

Where: UCCA, 798 Art District, Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 4:30-10 pm

Admission: 15 yuan (10 yuan for students, free for VIP)

Tel: 5780 0200

Tue, May 29



Movie

Duma

Directed by Carroll Ballard and written by Karen Janszen and Mark St. Germain, *Duma*, released in 2005, is a story about children and animals in nature. It won the Genesis Awards of Family Feature Film in 2006.

Where: Story Coffee, Building D of Huayuan Center, 9 Beizhan Bei Jie, Xicheng District

When: 7-9:30 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8832 0741

Drama

Entremets, Entremots

Entremets, Entremots is a drama about luxury foods, created by Marion Courtis, revised by Ning Chunyan, directed by Serge Noyell and played by the troupe Nono, featuring seven actors from France and China.

Where: Sofitel Wanda Beijing, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until May 31, 7 pm-9 pm

Admission: 1588 yuan (a french meal included)

Tel: 8599 6666 ext. 6801

Wed, May 30



Nightlife

Jazz Trio

If you love jazz, this is not to be missed. Bassist Da Huai, saxophonist Nathaniel Gao and drummer Alex Morris perform.

Where: Blue Stream Bar, 183 Jiu Gulou Dajie, Xicheng District

When: 9:30-11:30 pm

Admission: 40 yuan (30 yuan for booking)

Tel: 13911204906

Thur, May 31



Photography

Taking outdoor photos of Beijing

Participants in this photography group exchange ideas about composition, exposure and framing. Participants can upload their works on the website and solicit feedback.

Where: Olympic Forest Park, Beichen Xi Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 2:30-5:30 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 13811800597

(By Liu Xiaochen)

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Next week

Editor: Zhao Hongyi Designer: Yang Gen

BEIJING TODAY

No time like the present to see Wuhan

By Liu Xiaochen

Because of its climate and topography, Wuhan is cold and wet during the winter and hot as a furnace during the summer.

The other two seasons, however, are perfect.

As the provincial capital of Hubei Province, Wuhan attracts the most tourists throughout the year.

It's an ancient city that used to be known as the River Town, based on a poem by Li Bai from the Tang Dynasty (618-907).

The Yangtze River, the third longest river in the world, and its tributary Han run through Wuhan, dividing it into three parts: Wuchang, Hankou and Hanyang.



Crane tower

Crane tower and East Lake

The Yellow Crane Tower is the most famous place in Wuhan and a stop almost every tourist makes. Nearby are East Lake, Hankou Dragon King Temple and Wuhan's commercial pedestrian street.

The Yellow Crane Tower is one of the four most famous towers in China, built during the time of the Three Kingdoms (220-280).

It became famous during the Tang Dynasty because of a verse from the poet Cui Hao. Located at the top of Snake Hill in Wuchang, it is 51.4 meters tall, divided into five levels, and from afar it looks like a crane.

Walking to the top, visitors will see different drawings illustrating the dynasties that have occupied the tower.

The East Lake is also in Wuchang. Covering an area of 33 square kilometers, it's the largest lake in a Chinese urban area.

Along the lake are six areas for tourists to explore: Tingtao, Moshan, Luohong, Luoyan and Chuidi.

The Meiyuan of the East Lake is a unique garden, one of the most famous gardens in the Yangtze River area.



Street full of life and flavor

Photos by Liu Xiaochen



Cherry blossoms next to East Lake



Governor's residence during the Xinhai Revolution that overthrew the Qing Dynasty

Cherry blossoms, the wharf and shopping

During springtime, the cherry blossoms at Wuhan University – planted by Japanese soldiers that occupied the campus during World War II – attract people from across the country.

The peak time for watching cherry blossoms is the end of March. The florescence is short – only 13 to 20 days – so people usually come in droves. More than a million are estimated to visit each year – and this despite the fact that teachers and students never hold any official festival.

Walking along the wharf of Hankou, people can see the Hankou Dragon King Temple. Behind the wharf, the Yangtze River and the Han River flow away.

People come to this spot to experience a unique phenomenon: the two rivers are in different colors due to the difference in density of the water.

Wuhan is also good for shopping. Jiangnan Road, located in downtown Hankou, has been a commercial street for hundreds of years and is filled with traditional brand stores and is open day and night.

People can try Wuhan's special snacks there, too, including hot noodles with sesame paste and duck neck, or famous dishes such as the blunt-nose black bream.



The more daring residents swim across the Yangtze for fun.

CFP Photo